even now more than 20 pupils of your community in each class and there is therefore no difficulty in 200 pupils completing their education. The rules relating to fee concessions and scholarships are under revision. Your suggestions in the matter will also be considered. Previous members spoke about the assignment of land to depressed classes and I have replied to them. The officers are devoting sustained attention to the grant of lands to the depressed classes. A percentage of the lands disafforested from Reserves has been set apart for registry to depressed classes]

155. Problem of the backward communities.

SREEMATHI CODIVEETIL C. RUDRANI (*Nominated*) first spoke about the disabilities of the depressed classes in the matter of public service. In the case of backward communities, efficiency should not be made the criterion for entertainment in public service. The principle of communal representation should be the guiding factor in making appointments in public service, and the Government should remove the disabilities suffered by the depressed classes by the liberal entertainment of the qualified members of the backward communities in public service on the basis of communal representation. The proposal to appoint a committee to go into the question of communal representation in public service, about which mention was made in the Dewan's opening address, was a source of great consolation to the depressed classes, for which they were highly thankful to the Government. The member hoped that at least fifty per cent. of the appointments in State service would be reserved for the depressed class communities.

The majority of the labourers of the country belonged to the depressed classes. In the interests of the labouring classes and for their advancement, it was desirable to fix, by legislation, the wages of the labourers, their labour and hours of work, to the satisfaction of both the labourers and the capitalists, as had been done in Europe and other civilised countries.

A main disability of the depressed classes was their poverty. This was a great bar to their spiritual and material advancement. A sure remedy to remove this disability and to advance their social and economical condition was to popularise the co-operative movement among them. A mere registering of a number of co-operative credit societies like the existing Araya societies, would not solve the problem. Most of the depressed class people were illiterate and ignorant of the principles of co-operation. Considerable propaganda work should be done to create an enthusiasm among the members of the depressed classes in co-operative work. Arrangements should be made for series of lectures on co-operation being delivered by the Honorary Organisers of the Co-operative Department or by the Protector of Depressed Classes or his assistants, as was done in Cochin. Along with this, efforts should be made to popularise cottage industries among them. Attempts should be made not to increase the number of societies among them, but to see

to the efficient working of the existing societies. The men deputed to do propaganda work should be capable of making the people correctly understand the principles of co-operation. It would be better if young men belonging to a particular class of people were selected for doing propaganda work among that class of people. The Honorary Organisers deputed for the work should be given special allowances for the work.

The fee concession allowed to the members of the depressed classes, backward in point of education, was not in itself sufficient for the advancement of education among the depressed class communities. There should be a legislation for providing compulsory education. Further, scholarships should be awarded to the girl students for higher studies.

Better representation should be given to the backward communities in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Legislative Council and other popular bodies such as Municipalities and Panchayat Courts, on the basis of communal representation and numerical strength. The number of nominated members from the depressed class communities in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, in the Legislative Council and other popular institutions, should be doubled.

Lastly, the member urged the need for having an independent department, under a full time officer, for the protection of the depressed classes as in the Cochin State. A single officer could not be expected to cope efficiently with the onerous duties of both the Protector of Depressed Classes and of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. As in Cochin, a non-caste Hindu officer should be appointed as the Protector of Depressed Classes.

Before concluding, the member referred to the various beneficial reforms introduced by Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, especially for the advancement of the depressed classes, and wished Her Highness long life, health and prosperity.

DEWAN'S REPLY: In this second representation of yours, there are some points raised which are common to your first representation or relate to analogous subjects. They are matters which, as I said in reply to those representations, will receive the consideration of the Government.

I shall say a word or two about one or two of your representations. Government are aware that the spread of the co-operative movement is one of the surest means of progress of these backward communities and the policy of the Government in regard to the Co-operative Department has in the past been and will in future continue to be based on this understanding of the situation. In that sense, it seems to me that the combination of the office of the Protector of Depressed Classes and of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is an advantage to backward communities, because one of the main duties of the Protector of Depressed Classes would be to encourage the rise of co-operative societies and to guide the work of such societies on proper lines. Statistics that

you find in the administration reports of various years will show that the spirit of co-operation is spreading among the members of the depressed classes. The Co-operative Department has, in the recent past, been actuated by the idea of not increasing the number of societies already existing,—because, as a matter of fact, we have a large number of societies already existing—but to improve the societies now existing, rather than to the formation of new ones. Government hope that, with the greater spread of the movement and with the better conduct of co-operative societies, the progress of these communities will become more assured.

The other subjects that you dealt with, namely, education of the backward classes and encouragement of qualified people from those communities for recruitment to service, these are matters in which I have already given my reply. You may also remember that there is going to be a committee very shortly, which will go into that question.

I shall convey to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, your assurance of devoted loyalty and gratitude.

156. Concessions to the Depressed Classes.

MR. KANDAN KUMARAN (*Nominated*), speaking in Malayalam, said that the Government had issued an order that every depressed class family should be given three acres of land on concessional terms. In accordance with this order, Parayas had applied for lands in all the taluks. But the lands applied for had not been assigned to them yet. Hence, orders should be issued to take up the applications and representations submitted by the Parayas, from the year 1090 onwards, and to assign the lands applied for, to the respective Paraya applicants. The lands applied for by the Parayas should not either be assigned to the members of other communities or be auctioned away, but should be registered in small blocks to the Paraya applicants.

From 1090 onwards, applications and memorials had been submitted by Parayas for the registry of lands comprised in Survey Nos. 1/13, 1/14, 19/1, 20/1, 28/1, 35/1, 30/35 and 731/1, in the *pakuthies* of Thakazhi and Purakkad in the Ambalapuzha taluk. As a result, the *Proverthicar* of the place surveyed the lands after receiving Rs. 5 and four boundary stones from each of the applicants. But subsequently, steps were taken for the auctioning of the lands The applicants went to the Dewan and represented their grievances to him. The order for auction was thereupon cancelled and the question of registry was referred to the Dewan Peishkar. The Dewan Peishkar visited the locality and ordered the applicants to put in fresh applications This was on the 5th Kanni 1097. Accordingly 181 applications were submitted. But these applications had not yet been disposed of. This matter was represented at the 24th session of the Assembly and the Government had promised to take necessary steps in the matter. But now it would appear that some Christian gentlemen, with the help of some Christian officers, were trying to deprive them of their lands and get them